IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

May 3, 2007
For immediate release

1. Update to statewide bypasses

NOTE TO EDITORS: This is an update to the previously reported bypasses that occurred across the state during the week of April 23, 2007. The original news release and more information about bypasses can be found at http://www.iowadnr.com/news/07apr/rains.html.

UPDATE TO STATEWIDE BYPASSES

DES MOINES – Three additional cities reported waste water bypasses to the DNR during the week of April 30 after heavy rains fell throughout the state the previous week. The following cities have bypassed:

BUENA VISTA COUNTY
Alta: The Alta waste water treatment plant bypassed more than 584,000 gallons of partially treated waste water on April 24 to 27. Heavy rains overwhelmed the intake structure at the plant, causing waste water to bypass the trickling filter. Waste water went through a screen and the final clarifiers before discharging to a tributary of the Maple River.

DES MOINES COUNTY
Burlington: An additional 343,000 gallons of waste water was bypassed to the Mississippi River in Burlington when a flow regulator on a sewer line was partially blocked. The bypassing began on April 28, but wasn't discovered until the city crew checked the flow meter on April 30 and fixed the problem.

Burlington has spent more than $13 million recently to prevent bypassing during heavy rainfall by separating the combined sanitary and storm water (rainfall run-off) sewer systems. After completing the project, the city installed flow regulators in four areas of the city where sewage had began to back up into basements. The flow regulators are designed to separate the sewage so it can be treated, allowing only the wet weather flows to be bypassed. The DNR has required the city to eliminate the overflows within the next 18 months.

HUMBOLT COUNTY

Humboldt: The city of Humboldt bypassed about 110,000 gallons of partially treated waste water from the evening of April 27 to Sunday morning following 5-inch rains. The waste water came from a holding basin designed to handle excess flows during heavy rainfalls. When the basin overflowed, the waste water mixed with water that had been fully treated before flowing to the West Fork of the Des Moines River. In similar situations, testing has shown the effluent to meet permit limits.

-30-